

FEB 21 2006

|  |                        |                        |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>REQUEST<br/>FOR<br/>CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)<br/>TRANSMITTAL</b><br><br>Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,<br>provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application<br>filed on or after June 8, 1995.<br>See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA). | Application Number     | 09/545,851             |
|  | Filing Date            | April 10, 2000         |
|  | First Named Inventor   | Yasuyuki SONODA et al. |
|  | Group Art Unit         | 2614                   |
|  | Examiner Name          | Michael W. Hoyer       |
|  | Attorney Docket Number | 742406-5               |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

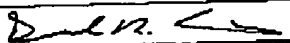
**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

- Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**
  - ☐ Previously submitted
    - ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
    - ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
    - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☒ Enclosed
    - ☒ Amendment/Reply
    - ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
    - ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
    - ☐ Submission of Formal Drawings
    - ☒ Petition for Two-month Extension of Time
- Miscellaneous**
  - ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(f) required)
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Fees**

The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

  - ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 19-2380
    - ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
    - ☒ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
    - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed
  - ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

|                   |   |                                   |                   |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Donald R. Studebaker  | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 32,815            |
| Signature         |  | Date                              | February 21, 2006 |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION  
[37 CFR 1.8(a)]

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO at 571-273-8300 2-21-06

Signature:

Name:

JEANNIE SARTON

02/23/2006 EFLORES 00000037 192380 09545851

01 FC:1801 790.00 DA

SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

W705448.1